THE NAVY-THE INDIANS.

REPORTS OF CABINET OFFICERS. SECRETARY THOMPSON MAKES MANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE NAVY-AN PLABORATE REPORT FROM MR SCRURZ ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Secretary Thompson has submitted to the President his annual report on naval affairs. He speaks with much pride of the education given in America to naval cadets, their instruction being equal to that obtained in any other nation. Suggestions are made about improvements in methods at the Naval Academy. The sale of many ships of the Navy is commended, the proceeds to be devoted to the building of new ships. The building of a special boat for target practice is recommended. The report of Secretary Schurz defends the Interior Department against the criticisms upon it. It outlines an Indian policy, and advises that the Indians be taught to be farmers and not herdsmen. Progress in civilization and education is reported. The Ute and Ponca troubles are discussed at

THE STATE OF THE NAVY.

THE AMERICAN FLEET, WHAT IT IS COMPOSED OF. AND WHERE THE SHIPS ARE-EDUCATION AT

WASHINGTON, Nev. 27 .- The Hon, R. W. Thompson, Secretary of the Navy, has presented his auqual report of the condition of the Navy and operations of the Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1879. He says:

June 30, 1879. He says:

The condition of the Navy has greatly improved during the last year. There are now in commission thirty-five vessels, consisting of cruisers, monitors and tornedo hoats. Of the different classes sixteen can be put in condition for sea service in a few months, and twenty could be made ready in an energency. With this done, the fighting force of the Navy which might be made available in a very short time would consist of cighty-one vessels of all classes. And if to this number be added the four manitors Terror. Puttan, Amphifrits and Monadnock, and eight powerful may which can be fitted for either cruisers or torpedo beats, our whole

vessels unhated for mayar purposes can a faint of ac-ever, but which are a positive expense, is it is neces-sary to keep in employment of a force of ship-keepers to preserve them from entire destruction. Some of, them might be prefitably converted into merchant ves-sels, and it would be economy to soil I. e waole in which event I repeat the recommendation heretofore made, that the Department be anthorized to use the proceeds in either building new, or repairing other vessels, instead of being required, as the law now

Palos.

The North Atlantic Squadron is commanded by Rear Admiral Robert H. Wyman. The Tennessee will be at tached to this Squadron, and besides that vessell two be composed of the Powhatan, Vandaria, New-Hamp shire, Pawner. Ecarsurge and Nipsic. The monitors also

Shenanucah and Wachuseit have taken their places.

The Paciale Squadron remains under the same command as has year. It consists of the following versels:
The Pensacola, Lackawanna, Alaska, Tuscutora, Adams, Onward, and the Marion is ordered to juin it without delay. The ships assigned to special service are as follows: The Theoderaga, Constitution, Minnesota, Machigan, Saratoga, Portsmouth, Rio Bravo, Tallapoosa, Alarm, Intrepid, Constellation and Jamestowa. The St. Mary's yet remains in passession of the City o' New-York as a training-ship in the interest of the increasing united are in use as training-ships for boys.

The Theoderaga is still engaged in special service on the consts of Airica and through the Indian scar, and when last heard from was at Aden, in Arabia, having had that far a most satisfactory flux successful cruise. It is confidently expected that material benefit to our commerce will result from this expection, and that it will become the means of establishing new relations between this contrive and the continent of Africa and

ment of cadets, he says:

Recognizing the fact that in such an Institution, where the number of cadets is so large, and their temperaments and inclinations necessarily varied and conflicting, seemingly harsh and severe rules are required to preserve discipline; nevertheless, as a general aling, the endets observe the rules and regulations of the institution with the same abscrity and delight as they would have those to do in after life who may be placed under them in their respective commands.

The Scenaria also seeds in commands.

The Secretary also speaks in commendatory terms of the Academic Board, and says their distinguished professional and scientific attainments have enabled them to make a course of study at the Academy as thorough and complete as it is at any similar institution in the world. The standard of professional education now reached by the young officers of the Navy who graduate at this institution will compare most favorably with that recognized by any of the Governments. It assures a continued course of efficiency in the management of Amertean ships both in peace and war, and of a capacity on the part of the officers to deal properly with the difficult and delicate questions which frequently arise out of international relations and are often submitted to their decision.

The insufficient facilities afforded at present for training in seamanship, navigation and gunnery lead the Secretary to recommend that a steam vessel of 500 or 700 tons be provided for that purpose. The cost of this method of practice would not be increased beyond the present expenditure, while it would undoubtedly tend to produce improvement in the practice of firing, because it would require a shifting instead of a stationary target to be fol-

The Secretary discusses at some length the subject of providing a proper course of instruction for such eadets as may develop fitness for the profes-sion of naval constructor. He says, referring to a suggestion by the Board of Visitors:

singestinably the Board of Visitors:

Whether this method of uniting the two professions of steam engineering and construction should be adopted, is a question which seems the fine to a level of civilization at least equal to that necessarily associated, even in building and working of marine engines, boilers and machinery, and the other the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines and plans of vessels with reference to their the lines, no matter whether they be of vood or fron.

The more working in iron and other metals does not necessarily make a steam englineer or naval constructor a house-cappeder. At present, therefore, therefore, therefore, therefore, therefore, there two branches of service are separate and distinct, except that under the law, as it how standy authority is given to appoint as an assistant-constructor a greatured and existing the content of the continue of the pursuit. This might be done

without any necessary conflict, but is attended with this practical difficulty; that as the professor of steam engineering are not educated as naval constructors it imposes upon them the decision of matters not properly pertaining to their profession, and might place the cadet engineer in the position of having to acquire a profession different from the one in which he had gradiated. He might or might not make a good constructor, for it does not necessarily follow that the most ingenious of builders of machinery is in all respects qualified to become a competent constructor of vessels of war. In all the European Governments the two professions are recognized as entirely distinct, and in England naval constructors are specially educated in certain professional branches pertaining to the structure of sines, while those branches in which steam engineers are especially educated is of a character wholly different.

This policy is deemed preferable as more consistent with the best increases of the service; and, therefore, I recent the recommendation heretofore made by me, that Congress shall authorize the admission of a sufficient number of cadet constructors annually, as it has already done of cadet engineers, so that after graduation they may have cutire charge of that branch of the service. There is as much necessity for the one as the other.

The attention of Congress is called to the recomnendations in reference to the erection of new buildings and other improvements at the Naval Academy, which are considered absolutely neces-

The Secretary says that the importance of the system which authorized the training of boys for seamen cannot be overestimated. Thus it promises complete success, and if persevered in will undoubtedly supply the Navy with a body of men to whom our ships may be safely intrusted while at sea, and upon whose courage and patriotism the country may confidently rely in time of war. No Nation, he says, can safely intrust the keeping of its honor to those who do not feel that they owe individual allegiance to it : and as the Navy has borne so conspicuous a part heretofore, and will undoubtedly bear an equally conspicuous part hereafter, in every measure required to preserve our National honor, all the means necessary to make it thoroughly American should

be encouraged. Since the passage of the act of May 12, 1879, the result has been more favorable than was anticipated, and 420 boys have been enlisted, who for sprightliness, vigor and robust constitutions are unsurpassed by any other like number of the same ages in the country. These added to those previously in the service make the total number 1,365—nearly one-seventh of the whole body of seamen. Of this number, 625 of former entistments have been placed for sea service on board of several of the cruisers, and the Department has great satisfactories and the department has great satisfactories. the critisers, and the Department has great satisfaction in being able to say that in every instance where they have been detailed for that purpose their conduct has been so universally good as to elicit the warmest praise from all the officers in command of them. Several officers have specially command of them. mended them.

The Secretary recommends that a station be established on the coast somewhere, where infected vessels may be sent and experiments made to discover the best and surest methods of disinfection. For this important work he thinks that "the perience and ability, the knowledge acquired by

perience and ability, the knowledge acquired by them in witnessing the effects produced by climatic influences, and their familiarity with the various conditions of the atmosphere in the several parts of the ship, are peculiarly fitted."

During the past year a new apparatus was introduced on the Richmond, and complete ventilation was obtained by it. It is believed she is now the best ventilated ship in the world. The ventilator being costly, it cannot be generally introduced without enlarged appropriations.

The remaining portions of Secretary Thompson's

The remaining partions of Secretary Thompson's report consist almost entirely of entiones of the statements and recommendations of his Chiefs of Bureaus—full abstracts of which were practed in The Trabune yesterday. In conclusion, the Secretary says that the work in every branch of the service has been well and satisfactorilly done. The interests of the Government have been guarded and the efficiency of the service has been promoted.

THE RED MAN IMPROVING IN CIVILIZATION AND GENERALLY LIVING A PEACEFUL LIFE -INDUSTRY

The report begins with a discussion of the Indian problem. It refers to the good luck of the Canadians with the Indians of their territory, but says that the case is different over there. In the British Possessions the Indians have occupied an immense territory full of game, where they have long been permitted to roam at pleasure without being interfered with by the progress of settlement. They could almost wholly provide for themselves by Under such circumstances the Indian problem was very simple, and peace was easily maintained. Of late, as settlements have spread and game has become less abundant, trouble is be-

Reference is made to the fact that many of the Indian reservations in this country have turned out | dren of prominent men in their respective tribes, to be of far greater value in agricultural and mineral resources than they were originally thought to successful operation, under the ma

Territory.

While I am by no means disposed to belittle the depoterable nature of Indian disturbances, or the great veine of a minitary toree in suppressing them, it is but just to the Indians to pend out the important fact that disturbance and nostlifty is the exception, and peaceable conduct the rule; that a very large majority of Indian reservations are in a condition of uninterupted quiet, without the presence of a coercing force, and the equally six mideant experience that the more civilized an Indian tribe becomes, the more certainly can its nearest Indian tribe becomes, the more certainly can its peace-able and orderly conduct be depended upon The progress of civilization and the maintenance of peace among the Indians have always gone hand in Mand.

THE INDIAN POLICY OUTLINED.
It is frequently said that we have no Indian policy.
This is a mistake, at least as far as the Department is concerned. If a policy consists of keeping a certain

object in view, and in employing all proper means at command to attain that object, then this Department

command to attain that object, then this Department has one.

The ends steadily pursued by it are the following: First, to set the Indians to work as agriculturalists or herders, thus to break up their habits of savage life, and to make them self-supporting; second, to caucate their youth of both sexes, so as to introduce to the growing generation civilized deas, wants and aspirations; third, to aliot parcels of land to Indians in severalty, and to give them individual title to their farms in fee, inationable for a certain period, thus to foster the pride of individual whership of property instead of their farmer demendence upon the tribe with its territory held in common; fourth, when settlement in severalty with individual title is accomplished, to dispose with their consent of those lands on their reservations which are not settled and nased by them, the proceeds to form a fund for their benefit which will gradually relieve the Government of the expenses at present provided for by annual apprepriations; fifth, when this is accomplished, to treat the Indians like other inhabitants of the United States under the laws of the land.

This pories if adopted and supported by Congress and carried out with wisdom nod firmness, will in any opinion gradually bring about a solution of the Indian problem without injustive to the Indians and also without obstructing the development of the country. It will raise them to a level of civilization at least equal to that of the civilized in bes in the Indian Territory, and probably to a higher of considering the standless of individual ownership in land. It will not take away from them by force what in justice and equity belongs to them, out induce them to part with what they cannot cultivate and ase themselves for a fair compensation. It will open to progress and improvement hare districts now held by Indians when will then be of no real advantage to them and are now to hobody else.

The Secretary does not favor an abolition of the tribal relation.

and says that the mishaps attract public attention while the good is left unnoticed.

He discusses briefly the question as to whether the Indians should be converted into herdsmen or farmers, and favors the latter plan. STATISTICS OF INDIAN INDUSTRY.

According to the official statistics, the Indians on reservations are reported to have now under cultivation 157,056 acres, about 24,000 of which were broken by them this year. The products raised by the reservation Indians during the past twelve months amounted to 328,637 bushels of wheat. 643,256 bushels of corn, 189,654 bushels of oate and barley, 390,698 bushels of potatoes and other vegetables, and 48,353 tons of bay.

This exhibit does not include the products of the five civilized tribes of the Indian Territory, who cultivated 237,000 acres and raised 565,400 bushels of wheat, 2,015,000 bushels of corn, 200,-500 bushels of oats and barley, 336,700 bushels of vegetables, and 176,500 tons of hay.

The raising of stock has been encouraged as much as possible. There are now owned by reservation Indians 199,700 horses, 2,870 mules, 68,894 head of cattle, 32,537 swine, and 863,525 sheep, the latter principally by the Navajoes. The five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory are reported to have 45,500 horses, 5,500 mules, 272,000 head of cattle, 190,000 swine, and 32,400 sheep.

The following facts are also set forth: Provision has been made for an additional distribu-tion of 11,390 head of stock cattle among the uncivi-ized tribes, it being found that the Indians are begin-ning to take excellent care of their domestic namuals, and to be proud of the increase of their stock. Many have begun to raise swine and pourry, and it is thought expedient to encourage such beginnings in every pos-sible way.

pedient to encourage size or a many in them is the way. The cultivation of garden vegetables among them is or rapidly spreading. Preparations have been made increase the area of cultivated soil very largely next sar. Considerable quantities of agricultural tools and updements have been distributed, and the demand is

extraordinary difficulties on their weary way, were sometimes without provisions, not a cracker-bex nor a porse-barrel was broken open.

In the course of the year Indian freighting has been introduced at a large majority of the agencies this side of the Rocky Mountains which are at a distance from railroad depels and steampost landings, and uniformly with the same storess. There are now 1,356 wagens run by Indian teamsters in that occupation, and the overland freignting is done better, more faithfully and far more economically by them than it ever was done for this Department by white contractors. But for the difficulties connected with the giving of boads, we should now be in a condition to have the Indians make bids for freighting contracts for other branches of the public service.

The employment of Indians in the mills and work-

has been made in education. The number of children of the uncivilized tribes now attending school is 7,193. Last year it was 6,229. The experiment of educating Indian pupils at the Hampton, Va., rior Department the military barracks at Carlisle, One hundred and fifty-eight Indian boys and girls -Sioux, Bannocks, Kiowas, Comanches, Chevennes, Arapahoes, Poncas and Nez Perces-mostly the chilhave been taken thither, and the school is now in into and reporting upon the consistion of affairs.

The Plymouth has been put in ordinary in consequence of the appearance of the yellow fever which broke out last Summer, and will be satisfactorily demonstrated that she can safely be sent to see again.

To be of far greater value in agricultural and minimary in consequence to the proportion of affairs.

The Plymouth has been put in ordinary in consequence of the appearance of the yellow fever which broke out last Summer, and will be satisfactorily demonstrated that she can white population surrounding them. The report to educate a number of Pacific Coast Indian boys sell property to the vame of \$35,640. General

witten population surrounding them. The report safety be sent to sea again.

The unexpended balance of appropriations which stood to the credit of the Department at the close of the last fiscal year was \$1.418,245, which, added to the appropriations, makes an aggregate of \$14,502,250 of appropriations available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880.

The estimate of expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, aggregates \$14,864,147, showing an excess over the appropriations for the presence of the fact that the estimate for the pay of the Navy, see sections of the fact that the estimate for the pay of the Navy, and that other expenses are allowed for in the various Bureaus.

No BRITER ACADEMY IN THE WORLD.

The Naval Academy receives a large share of the Secretary's attention. He pays a high tribute to the laste Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, and the admirable manner in which he mannared the institution. He infers from the favorable anginees and or which the present term is making procress target and the minute beautiful to the presence of the presence of the presence of the presence of the secretary's attention. He pays a high tribute to the laste Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, and the admirable manner in which he mannared the institution. He infers from the favorable anginees and or sense the particular of the secretary's attention. He present term is making procress that the Academy will be equally prosperous under Rear-Admiral George B. Baleb. Referring to the deportment of cadets, he says:

Recomming the fact that the sea a "neutration of the submitted to proportion of the block of the present cade of the present expense of a single proportion of the submitted to present each of the present cade of the present each of the

while it is true that two years are they were for a short time insufficiently supplied, in consequence of the delinquency of the transportation commeter—who subsequently has been presented by this bepartment, and tried and convicted of grave offence—the White River Ut-s since then have been amply supplied with all they needed. Their hunting parties are known to have left the carenses of the game killed in large quantities on the ground, taking merely the skins for trading. Such things are not done by hingry people.

Agent Mecker was known as a man of unimpeachable integrity. When he endeavered to plough land for agricultural purposes, which furnished the immediate occasion for the first assault on him. he do it for the benefit of the Indians and not for almedit. The same thing has been done at a large number of agencies without the least oppoperition from the Indians and with great success.

The real cause of the trouble is, in my opinion, to be found in the fondness of the mountain Indians for their old wild habits, stimulated by the abundance of game in that part of the country, their distinctination to submit to any civilizing restraint, the apprehensions produced among them by the rapid advance of settlements and infining camps encreaching on their funnting grounds, the evil influence exercised upon them by whites hiving upon the borders of their reservation, and the advantage telen of a temperary excitement of the mischievous characters among them upon the approach of a military force.

It is expected that the occurrence of this trouble and the transactious following thereupon will result in such arrangements as will be calculated to prevent for the

It is expected that the occurrence of this trouble and the transactions following thereupon will result in such arrangements as will be calculated to prevent for the future hostile contact between the white inhabitants and the Indians in that part of the country. Every proper effort will be made by this Department to this end.

which they left benind them on the Missouri River. Seventy houses have been built by and for them of far better quality than the miserable luts they formerly occupied in Dakota, and the construction of a larger number is now in progress, so that, as the agent reports, every Ponca family will be comfortably housed before January. A very liberal allowance of agricultural implements and stock cattle has been given them, and if they apply themselves to agricultural work, there is no doubt that their condition will soon be more prosecrous than it has ever been before. During the first year after their removal to the Indian Territory they lost a comparatively large number of their people by death in consequence of the change of climate, which is greatly to be deplored, but their sanitary condition is now very much improved. The death rate among them during the present year has been very low, and the number of cuses of sixmess is constantly decreasing. It is thought they are now sufficiently accimated to be out of danger.

Referring to the movement for testing the rights

of the Poncas in the courts, the Secretary says that it would perhaps be well to have the rights of Indians defined and fixed by judicial decisions, but he does not think that such decisions would "solve the Iudian question." The solution of the Iudian question depends upon the civilization of the Indians and their ability to take care of themselves. The Secretary suggests that, now that the Poncas are located satisfactorily in the Indian Territory, perhaps they had better be left there. He also

Referring to the movement for testing the rights

I have been informed on good authority that emissaries have also been sent among the Sioux in Southern Dakota, who are now contented and have made a hope ful beginning in doing useful work for themselves, for the purpose of "teaceing them their rights" and inducing some of them to withdraw themselves from the authority of the Government, and to leave their reservation, so that another "test case" may be made up. Such schemes are mischlevous and representable, and should be discountenanced and registed by all well-meaning citizens. If they are set on foot in the name of phisunthropy, it is a philanthropy will use every effort to accomplish that which is really best for the Indians—to make these who are well settled stay quietly where they are, avail themselves of the means offered for their improvement, cultivate their fields and take good care of their stock, devote themselves to useful work, send their children to school, and submit to the discipline which is necessary for their advancement in cavilized life. This would be better than an acutation calculated to divert their minds from that which is really needful.

The report concludes with remarks on the gener-

The report concludes with remarks on the generally encouraging state of Indian offairs, and with the recommendation that a law be enacted to authorize the sale of timber from public lands under the direct supervision of Government officers, and that a commission be appointed, composed of qualified persons, to study the laws and practices lopted in other countries for the preservation and cultivation of forests.

REMINISCENCES OF GENERAL THOMAS.

STORIES WHICH WERE TOLD BY CAMP FIRES-TES-TIMONY TO THOMAS'S FIRMNESS AND FORE-THOUGHT. FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, Nov. 27 .- Stories of the war, and especially incidents illustrating the peculiarities of General Thomas as a man and a commander, formed the staple of gossip among the veterans of his army

When General Slocum and General Ketcham met at the reunion they exchanged hearty greetings. In the of an episode in which they, next to General Thomas himself, were the chief actors. In March, 1863, Lieuand a wagon-master, became detached from their train when out on a foraging expedition, and were captured by a party of guerfi-The Lieutenant was in a house signing receipts for the grain with which his wagons were loaded when the foremost wagon, containing the shead of their escort. The Lieutenant rode on to halt the wagon, and on his approach was forced to surrender of the prisoners were then tied behind them, and were made to stand in two or three yards from their eaptors. At a signal the Three were shot dead at the first fire, but Lieutenant Porter was not hit. He sprang away in the darkness, threw himself over a bank into the river, having first succeed in freeing his hands. He finally reached camp

When the circumstances of this atrocity were made bounds. After equisidering the matter he decided upon a novel method of retaliation, and one which subseigent events proved to be a most effectual preventative of guerilla murders. This was to levy \$30,000 on the property of the rebel citizens living within a circuit of eral Slocum was charged with the execut in of this York District, to make the assessments, and seize prop-

Captain Frait, of the Army, and Moss Mailler, of Massechusteris. Arrangements have also been made to educate a number of Pacific Coast Indian boys and girls in like manner at Forest Grove, Oregont.

Several Indian chiefs, whose children are at Hampton and Carlisle, have expressed a desire to visit those schools next Spring, and to bring their wives with them for that purpose-a sort of Indian visiting committee. It is thought that such a visit will be calculated to do much good, and it will therefore be encouraged within proper limits. In regard to the allottenent of Indians will be the caption of the Considerable number of reservations now express a desire for it with great urgency. In order to protect the Indians from fraulient practices consequent upon their innorance and credulity, the Secretary recommendation that the title to lands allotted to Indians similar that the title to lands allotted to Indians similar that the title to lands allotted to Indians similar than the sound health of the User and the considerable space in the report is devoted to statements concerning last year's movement for the invasion and occupation of a portion of the Indian Territory. The Secretary mentions the advice gave to the representative men of the evillage tribe as Makagee last Autumn, that they should his visit the commission should rail in its work the two parameters of the same of the convenient declining to heed the demand so urgently made in some quarters for a continuance of military operations while the captive women and children were still in the hands of the Utex Referring to the course adopted, the Secretary valve.

The history of the Ete outbreak is given at considerable length. The Secretary referred to the convenient in declining to heed the demand so urgently made in some quarters for a continuance of military operations while the captive women and children were still in the hands of the Utex Referring to the course should all in its work the temporary amplication to the course of the course and probabilities

THE CATHOLICS AND THE SCHOOLS.

Boston, Nov. 27.-It is now asserted that the recent statement that Archbishop Williams's desion upon the parechial school question fully sustained Father Scully is substantially incorrect. It is claimed by some of those present at the Synod that the substance of the statement made by the Archbishop was that while he recommended the establishment of parochial schools wherever it is practicable, he recent sensors wherever it is practicule, he was utterly opposed to extreme measures in any matter connected with them; that, under certain circumstances, where parents rejused to se d their chidren to these schools, the right of sacrament might be temporarily withheld, but whenever a case of that nature occurred, the priest must cause a report of the facts to be made to the Bishep, and he alone had power to decide upon the matter.

A VERDICT AGAINST SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Nov. 27 .- Judge Woods, of the United States Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, has rendered a decision in the case of Eugene Kelly, of

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

THE CATTLE AND MEAT TRADE. ANIMALS BROUGHT FROM THE WEST SHOULD BE PASTURED REFORE THEY ARE SLAUGHTERED OR SENT TO EUROPE. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: As THE TRIBUNE has always been open to the discussion of any subject concerning the public, I venture the following letter on the cattle and neat trade-a subject which I have carefully studied during the last three to four years. I beg that you will permit me to address principally the stock dealers in the cond person, in the hope that it may call forth a reply or some explanation from them to convince the intell cent public that their present modus operandi, if not the best, is as good as can be practically devised. The letter embraces a subject of particular interest to our principal raffroads as well as to the general public, inasmuch as i makes a large difference in a railroad company's re celpts and profits whether they receive the toll on fiv loaded cars or on thirty-five loaded cars, while the expense to the railroad company for giving the right of way and hauling the train is about the same in either

The people who form small or large communities al ways want to know the source, the means and the whole process whereby they are supplied daily with an article of food so indispensable, and that costs so much (fully five times that of fuel) in the average of families the year round. Yet coal is calculated as the basis of wealth of many of our railroad companies. From the above comparison let me ask you stock deal-

ers is it not wise and proper for you to see to it that the bodily "condition" of your mimals at the time of slaughter for food should be such as to keep good faith with the consumer as to its healthful quality, a thing easily accomplished by very simple means ! The eatilhome supply) will exceed all other exports we have if properly conducted. The commodities of which we have a large surplus consist mainly of cereal grains, cot ten, to bacco and petroleum; but the cattle and meat trade must eventually exceed any of the other exports in value, as far as the necessity of food for existence exceeds tha of clothing. From these considerations I am led to be heve that you cannot profitably continue to fatten and slaughter your animals in Chicago, St. Louis, or any other Western centre for live stock, and send their flesh in refrigerator cars to New-York and thence in refrigera tor apartments in steamships to Europe for consumpimmediate use, for the hotels and other large consumers here on a safe daily calculation. Is it not unwise to e pect that the meat of slaughtered animals can be cought that distance, and then put on shipboard in refrigerator sections, there to remain during the vayage, End expect much good from it on arrival ! The dealer there find that it must be very soon disposed of or lost. The consumers after purchase also find that it must be

week's time must intervene between the time of killing and eating; during which time the meat has been keptnot in a cold or low temperature, as nature makes it in open air, but in confined sections, filled with an artificial atmosphere, which excludes the action of a centingmost miritious and juley properties, in that artificial a most bere; and hence the commencement of decomposition so soon after exposure to the natural atmosphere. The only remedy for this is the fattening and slaud; tering of the animals here, instead of at the West. A plain as this appears to reason I do not expect you adopt such a plan until arged by the public desires an demand for better quality. By slaughtering your annais at the far West, where they grow, and sending out their flesh to the East in refrigerator cars, you save a enermous percentage or railroad freightage, for in sening only the flesh, instead of the live animals, you say about one half of the freight tonnings. And, again, yo

The reason for this is that at heat fully two and a half

enough, to furly recuperate. And I believe that, by gaining more pounds than were lost, you would aske money by the charge, by an advance in price corresponding to the advance in quality.

8. B. Driffes.

Brooklyn, Nov. 26, 1879.

THE HISTORY OF THE CENSUS. STATISTICS OF POPULATION IN THE PAST-THE PRACTICE OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: In view of the recent discussion of the census, and preparations now going on for the taking next year of a census for the United States under the direction of that able and skilled statistician, General F. A. Walker, a glance at the subject in a general way may be of interest to some.

The term census is of old Roman origin, a group of the many functions performed by the high officer called censor, having received the name census. In modern acceptation it is " an official enumeration of persons, their property generally, with such facts as tend to show their moral, social, physical and industrial condition." In the Pentaleuch, the meration of the people is enjoined, and the is that of Moses in the wilderness. There is record of a Chinese census made by command of the Emperor Fee. 2.042 B. C.; and of one in Japan under the Mikado Suign in the last century before Christ. Under the constitution of Solon the citizens of Athens were divided and registered in four classes, according to the amount of their taxable property or income.

The Roman census originated under Servius Tullius the sixth King of Rome, in the distribution of citizens into classes, in a most solemn manner on the Campus Martins, where every citizen had to appear, and to declare upon oath his name and dwelling, the number and age of his calldren, and the value of his property, under penalty of having his goods confiscated, and of being scourged and sold for a slave. The whole popula tion was divided into six classes, based upon property qualifications; improvements were made under

In the Sixteenth century came into vogue the practice of keeping church registers of births, marriages and deaths, out of which grew the modern systems of recording the movements of the population. Peter the Great, in 1719, had a census taken of the male population for purposes of conscription, additions being made antil 1802, when a " Central Bureau of Statistics " was organized, which was reorganized in 1852. From 1959-67 the Russian census grew to include legal popmiation, information with reference to sexes, number of houses in towns, churches, chapels, institutions, manu facturing establishments, etc.

In Prussia, census-taking dates back to Frederick William I., and was improved under Frederick II. The enumeration embraces mechanics, medicine, religion. etc., and is made by civil officers on one day in December. The new German Empire, on December 1, 1871, took a census for the first time. The German States, for the most part, take a census triennially. Austria's census was first taken in 1734, and until 1857 was used en tirely for military purposes. It is taken every three

83,360,884. General Walker is considered to have made it (ainth census; the most complete in detail and accuracy that has ever been accomplished.

The present law, passed by the XLVth Congress, allows \$3,000,060, and has some excellent provisions. Supervisors are to be appointed for divisions, they appointing enumerators of subdivisions, who are to be selected solely with reterence to their floress for these duties, and without reference to political or party affiliations. Under the old law sub-divisions were limited to 20,000 inhubitants, while by the present law they are limited to 4,000. By the old law the time from June 1 to November 1 was allowed for enumeration, while under the present statute it is required to be done in June, and in cities of more than 10,000 inhabitants in the two weeks from the first Monday in June. Schoolmasters have largely been found in England among the best qualified enumerators. It is proposed here to employ

subject that in Ireland the greatest progress has been made. The first census was taken in 18.11, but was not considered trustworthy. An English Report says: "Prior to 1841 the Irish enumerators were persons taken from the general community. In the years 1841-31-61-71, the census was taken by the constabiliary and police under the control of the efficient of these forces; their knowledge rendered them particularly well anited for this undertaking, and their position throughout has afforded us a sufficient staff of efficient enumerators, over whom the Government continues to exercise control. They are, we have reason to bedieve, personally acquainted with every house in their respective districts. Five thousand and intery-ax menhatong to the constability, fifteen Coast Guards and 173 of the Dublim Metropolitan Police were employed as enumerators." Dr. Jarvis, who is considered the inchest authority on the subject, says that the Fish census of 1841-51-501, taken by the Coastabulary Police, is among the best in the world.

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Brooklyn, Nov. 24, 1879.

FREE SPEECH TO THE GULF. LET THE SOUTH HEAR POLITICAL SPEECHES FROM

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: I have for years used every opportunity I could find to impress upon the managing agencies of the Republican party the necessity of more active operations in the South. I come now to you, craving ndulgence to express my views. The thought I have is simply this, that before every important election, Congressional or Pre-blential, the Republican party should

do the work in the South that it does in the North. ness of mind to-day only because the Republican party has voluntarily abandoned it. The daty of the Republiits treason to tay down its arms. That achievement was only vantage ground from which to project the execution of a more sacred and pleasant duty, to wit, the refor-

mation of its old civilization, its inspiration with a new. But this is a duty that now seems totally abandoned. In fact, it was never taken up. Beyond a single speech the tour of Senator Wilson through the Southern States, seen done since the war to remould the Southern mind. The Republican party never took up aggressive work in the South. It dropped down to the low level of a simple struggie for self-preservation in the States where it had power, and it has come very near the wreck that awaits

It was its business at the close of the war to have a National policy and then to keep that policy before the

people of every State.

The salvation of the party came out of the South in the last Presidential contest. What had the management of the party done for the South to des erve the vie ment of the party done for the South to deserve the viecory that tarried so long for it? Had there been any
anvass of the South under the direction of the Executive Committee of the party? What single prominent
the publican made speeches in the South previous to the
slection? Who appeared there from the North to steady
the hands that undeld the Reposition names? The
the modification of the Southern mind cannot be
considered less than shameful.
We tark about a closed South. If the South is closed
we are without excuse for allowing it to become closed,
and the South is not shut, and never has been against a
conduct attempt. From the right quarter, in the right
pirit, to discuss before it the principles of the Republian party.

South is as open and as safe to our Senators and entatives and Governors as it was to General ord the other day at the trial of the murderers of in. In the canvass just closed what ought to have one was something like this: Mr. Coukling spoke

such work as fewsive work.

Such work as feontemplate is practical, and like all practical things calls for means of execution. Let the Executive Committee of the Republican party plan at once the most therough canvass of the Southern States. Then let them appoint a treasurer—say flowernor Carpenter, of lows, or senator tragin, of New-Hampshire—to audit and pay the expenses necessary to the work contemplated. No man ought to be asked to make a cozon speeches in the South at his own charges—few men could afford to do it. Then let such treasurer appeal to the rank and file of the Republican party to send up the funds, and I believe you will see such a response as will convince the world that there is nothing the average Republican voter wishes so much as five speech "from Canada to the Gulf," and such results as naturally and legiticately flow thereform.

Temberd Die Page Co., Ill., Nov. 25, 1879. late is practical, and like all

Lombard, Du Paye Co., Ill., Nov. 25, 1879. CO-OPERATION FOR CONVICTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The visit of Mr. George J. Holyoake to this country, and the consequent discussion of the history, methods and results of cooperative stores and industrial enterprises in England, have brought the general subject of cooperation prominently before the pub-He, and raised hopes that new uses may be made of a principle shown to be so beneficial to the individual and so conservative of the public good. Intimately connected with the elevation of the condition of the deserving poor is the question, as yet without any satisfactory answer: What shall be done to save discharged convicts from gravitating toward their old haunts, companions and criminal courses, by reason of the almost total failare by the State, or of private endeavor, to make such unfortunates self-supporting, or even self-helping, in their return to society ! It would seem that cooperation might contribute valuable hints to our Prison Asso-ciation on this question, and that a plan might be devised whereby our prisons could be make self-supporting without recourse to the contract system-which will appeal to the taxpayer; our convicts converted into skilled artisans, and enabled, with the possible profits of their own labor which they may receive at their discharge, to begin a self-supporting career-which will appeal to the political economist; and by giving rational, instructive employment, will occupy and direct the mind of the laborer, draw him away from past associations and habits of thought, render him amenably lighter discipline and tend to bring about reformation engracter, the true design of punitive disciplinewill appeal to the common humanity and the come sense of the whole people. Recruited as are our criminals from the unlearned and

the idie, as well as from the naturally vicious and incorrigibly bad, there is little to be hoped in the way of permanent benefit to the individual, or resultant economy or safety to the body pointie, from any scheme of prison discipline or administration not based on a thorough change of direction of thought, sentiment and action in the individual criminal. Could the cooperative system of industrial employment be introduced into our prisons and made an integral part of prison administration, it is reasonable to hope that we might see the day when a fair and increasing proportion of our prison inmates, on their liberation, would step forth with such industrial knowledge as would tend to maintain them above pauperism, and with a meral impetus and an in-dependence and hopefulness of conduct entirely un-

above purperism, and with a moral impetus and an interely for military purposes. It is taken every three years.

The science of statistics has been more cultivated in Sweden than in any other country. The practice dates back to 1686, and has been carried to a high state of perfection. In Turkey the census is taken for conscription. The first taken in France was in 1700; it is now taken at quinquential periods. Demmirk being the only other country that takes its census every five years. The United States, Great Britain and Ireland, Holiand, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden and Norway on the other hand, do the work every ten years. By the Statute of 1855 this state takes a census every five years.

Toe origin of the American census may be traced to the colonial period, when the British Board of Trade caused enumerations to be made for commercial purposes. The cultured States presents the unusual fact of lenge ordanes by the Constitution of tax feveriment, and really as the very birrs of the Chited States presents the unusual fact of lenge ordanes by the Constitution of tax feveriment, and really as the very birrs of the Constitution of the Government seed of Trade caused enumerations to be made on ment, and really as the very birrs of the Constitution of the Government seed in 1870 a bill to take from the control of Marshals the collecting of census every tensus as unevertained and prescribed methods.

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